

SPRINGVILLE

Some of the very early explorers in this area were Kit Carson and John C. Fremont, the "American Pathfinder," who had passed through here in the 1830's. "Old Bridger", a white trapper had hunted wild animals and trapped beaver and otter upon the streams and near the lake. Barney Ward, an old trapper and Indian fighter, had been in the valley for several years and was still here when the pioneers came. Later William Wardsworth, Parley P. Pratt with a party, and a few others passed through the valley.

In 1849 Oliver B. Huntington came to this area with Barney Ward on a trapping venture. In their travels they encountered some Indians, two of which were Stick-in-the-head and Little Chief. The one was so named because he kept his hair in a large bob at the back of his head held in place by a stick of greese-wood. One night the bell horse broke the hobbles and led the other horses up the canyon. The trappers got them back early the next morning but because of this hobble incident it has since been called Hobblecreek Canyon.

Mr. Huntington was one of the early residents and schoolmasters in Springville. He also taught the first school in a house with books at Salt Lake City, in the winter of 1847-48. A lady had taught the previous autumn, a sort of kindergarten for little ones, in a tent without books.

The real locator of Springville as a townsite was William Miller. After a Ute uprising in 1849, a group of 200 volunteers came to the aid of people in the area. Mr. Miller had held an official position in that battalion of cavalry. They went as far south as Peteetneet (now Payson) and became very interested in the land near Hobble Creek.

Mr. Miller made his desires known to Brigham Young and when Aaron Johnson came into Salt Lake valley in 1850 with his train of 135 wagons, Mr. Miller informed him that his home was already selected and that they were to form a settlement in Utah Valley. Aaron Johnson was made the District Judge of Utah County and William Miller Associate Justice.

On September 18th, 1850 Captain Johnson and the first of his wagons arrived on the future site of Springville. Their journey of 1,100 miles was over. Some wagons had heavy freight such as cook stoves, plows, tools and so on.

Some of the faithful cows did not only serve as draft animals but faithfully kept giving milk. Left over milk was fixed on the hind end of the wagon and butter was churned by the jolting motion.

A fort was built on the rising ground about where the Third Ward school house now stands. 8, pp. 299-302.

These people had their share of Indian scares like other settlers. One evening about 200 Indians set up camp about one fourth of a mile from their fort.

Once a small band of Indians went from door to door singing, dancing and beating a tom-tom, then stopping to call out "Shetcup, biscuit, shirt!" and soon people had donated until their sacks were full of food.

One war nearly started in 1851 when a white man hunting geese by the lake thought he saw a wolf and after firing found that he had killed an Indian. A group went to speak with the Indians using James Mendenhall for an interpreter and after the gift of an ox, some powder and shot, finally convinced the Indians that the killing was an accident. 8, p. 305.

In brief form the following outlines the origin and cause of the Walker War. Walker and his braves were camped about a mile north of what is now Springville and everything seemed peaceful. James Ivie had a cabin near here and was living in it with his wife and child. A squaw came to the door and traded three fish for three pints of flour (flour being hard to get at that time) and one of the men seeing what the squaw had traded for gave her a brutal beating. Mrs. Ivie called her husband and he fought with the Indian. His rifle had been outside the cabin and the Indian got it, but before he could point it at Mr. Ivie they fought over it and it broke in two; Mr. Ivie getting the metal part and the Indian the stock. The Indian was struck over the head with it and died shortly after. He also knocked another Indian out with it about the time squaw regained her senses and she struck Mr. Ivie in the face with stick cutting his upper lip so badly that he carried the scar the rest of his life. He however was still conscious and

knocked her out with a blow from the rifle barrel. The other Indian ran to inform the Indian tribe what had happened, and even though they tried to explain and offered beef, flour and other things Chief Walker would not settle unless they gave up Mr. Ivie for trial by the Indians, which they would not do.

The next day Walker broke camp and went to Payson where he joined his brother Arrapeen, another Indian chief and they began killing and raiding settlements in Utah, Juab, Sanpete, Millard and Iron counties. Their last engagement was at the south end of Utah Lake and is generally spoken of as the Goshen Valley Battle.

A treaty of peace was signed by Walker in May, 1854 at his camp on Meadow Creek, Juab County; and Caldwell's cavalry and Parry's infantry were released from duty after serving a period of ninety-one days from July 18th to October 15, 1853.

Another tough Indian by the name of Squash-head was captured in 1854. He was so named because he had a huge round head and a big mouth with teeth that a chimpanzee might have been proud of. He was accused of killing and eating a two-year-old white child on the other side of the lake, and other things. While in chains and waiting for trial he settled his own case by cutting his jugular vein with a sharp bread knife that was given to him with his breakfast.

Other Indians were afraid of him too, and it was not hard to cool their anger when they were given melons, potatoes and other food.

Some of the Springville people were also involved in the Black Hawk War, and the battle in Diamond Fork. More will be said of the Black Hawk War later which started in the spring of 1866; but let us just touch on highlights of the battle in Diamond Fork.

Indians came down Maple Canyon in Utah County in June 1866 and drove off some fifty horses and twenty head of cattle into Maple Canyon. The old bell spoke, drums beat and the minute men gathered on the public square. They pursued the Indians and the fight that followed brought quite a bit of suffering on both sides, but the Indians were driven off and most of the cattle and horses returned along with souvenirs from the Indian camp. There were three exciting days involved and some of the men had been forty-eight hours in the saddle almost without food or sleep. Black Hawk was reportedly wounded badly in this fight, and it marked the end of Indian troubles in this area. 8, pp. 306-315.

The locomotive of the west was the ox team. Oxen were slow but reliable. Ten miles was an average days travel.

In 1852 Utah Lake was frozen so hard that a group of men made nine trips across the lake for wood.

For nearly twenty years everything that could not be made or grown had to be brought in by wagon, also machinery for mills, as well as implements for farming. Express and mail were carried almost entirely on horseback.

The railroad arrived in Salt Lake City from the east January 10, 1870, and the Utah Southern connecting Salt Lake and Provo was completed in 1871.

Bicycle riding became popular as a pastime in the 1890's. 8, pp. 351.

MAPLETON
Those who first pioneered the Union Bench (now Mapleton) were the early settlers of Springville and their children. In 1861 this tract of land was uninhabited except by American Indians and wild animals that roamed the baren waste of sagebrush. The only roads were trails made by the jack-rabbit, coyote and hungry wolf. A group of men decided to cultivate this land in the united group. They called it Union Field. After this the place was called

Union Bench, because of the united effort put forth in cultivating it.

Indians resented intrusion into their hunting ground. Many depredations were committed by them during the years between 1847 and 1867. For 20 years the people lived in fear of the red man, so this land was abandoned, until the government gave its citizens a right to homestead or pre-empt the land. To homestead settlers had to live on the land 5 years. To pre-empt they lived on the land and then paid so much per acre. In 1875 or 1876 a few permanent homes were built on Union Bench. By this time the Indians had become friendly due to wise council of President Young and the efforts of Jacob Hamblin and Can Jones who were always ready to intercede for peace. 8, pp. 369-374.